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Capital Planning Minutes 02-29-2000

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

- * Charles T. Foskett, Chairman
- * John F. Britt
- * Nancy T. Galkowski
- * Anthony T. Lionetta
- John Bilafer
- * John FitzMaurice
- A. L. Minervini
- * Barbara Thornton
- * Steve Andrews

* In Attendance

Additional Information – Fire Services: The Director of Fire Services presented additional to support the proposal to rebuild the Park Circle Station. This included statistics comparing Arlington to surrounding communities (population, density, and number of stations). Also provided was data on the type of calls made and response times. There was an exchange of questions and answers with the Director.

Initiation of Fire Station Design: The Director made a request for funds this year to undertake the design of a new station. (Say \$120,000) He offered to rescind the request for a Lighting Plant (\$60,000) and reallocate the request for \$20,000 in the Year's proposed plan for studies. These amounts could partially offset the additional funds needed.

CPC Discussion on Fire Requests: The CPC again spent considerable time discussing this matter. Review of the CPC Plan going forward suggests that an expected reduction in debt financing may make funding of the Station possible but not until FY 2003. (This plan would be adversely affected, if the upcoming debt exclusion for schools does not pass). The CPC decided to stay with the present plan which is for **Study** in FY 2001, **Design** in FY 2002 (if need for station is validated by the Study), and then **Construction** in FY 2002. The CPC also discussed moving another Station (Rehab Project) into the Five-Year Plan.

Study of Fire Services: The CPC also discussed the approach to the Fire Study, which is in this Year's Plan. The Study needs to provide hard documentation on response time (Town wide maximum response times with and without the Park Circle Station.) Also desired is an evaluation of new technologies. The CPC stated its interest to be involved in the study both in setting up what is to be studied and then the performance of the study.

Warrant Articles Land Takings: Charlie F. reviewed several Articles on the Town Meeting Warrant, including Land Acquisitions. (Dollar amounts are not yet known). No decisions on positions were reached. It appears that Article 55 – Blossom Street is intended, only as a contingency plan for the School Department. It involves getting Town Meeting permission to purchase a parcel on the Pierce School block, if in the future it becomes available.

Debt Exclusion: The CPC is not required to take a position on the Debt Exclusion. No position is to be taken.

Building Maintenance Warrant: There was discussion about Article 56 - Earmarking of Maintenance Funds. Comments included the need to define what maintenance is (Vs capital Vs operating), setting percentage (say at 2%) of the entire operating budget, and setting policy instead of legislation (similar to CPC). The CPC drafted a position that a Town Meeting committee be established consisting of two Town Meeting members and Department Heads. This committee would be charged with studying the issue and reporting back to Town Meeting by next year with a proposed policy. It was strongly felt that the Committee should do this, itself, and not involve a consult.

Presentation of FinCom: The Presentation to FinCom is set for March 13. Charlie, Steve, Barbara and John F. are planning on attending. The presentation will include key issues, such as the Building Maintenance Fund of the renovation of adjacent Parks (as part of School projects), the Fire Station Issue, and the Parks Program

Meeting Adjourned.